

Message Text

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71

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 091626Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8640

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 16268

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, EEC

SUBJECT: JAPANESE ROLE IN US/EUROPEAN DECLARATIONS

REF: BONN 15231

1. FOLLOWING RETURN FROM RECENT TRIP TO EAST ASIA, FOREIGN OFFICE FAR EAST DEPARTMENT CHIEF HELLBECK INFORMED EMBOFF ON CURRENT THINKING IN TOKYO CONCERNING JAPANESE ROLE IN US/EUROPEAN DECLARATION EXERCISE. ACCORDING TO HELLBECK, JAPAN HAS SHIFTED FROM EARLIER REPORTED JAPANESE READINESS TO SEEK TRIANGULAR HARMONIZATION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS VIA THREE SEPARATE BILATERAL DECLARATIONS--US/JAPAN, US/EC, AND JAPAN/EC (REFTEL). HELLBECK SAID HE BECAME AWARE LAST WEEK IN TOKYO OF THE JAPANESE VIEW THAT JAPAN'S INTERESTS "WOULD BE RAILROADED" IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT-- JAPAN WOULD HAVE ONLY A SECOND-CLASS ROLE IN SUCH A TRIANGLE.

2. INSTEAD, HELLBECK GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE JAPANESE ARE INCLINED ALBEIT RATHER VAGUELY TO PREFER
SECRET

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A CHAPEAU ARRANGEMENT. HE RECALLED THAT SEVERAL EC PARTNERS WERE QUITE COOL TO THE IDEA OF A CHAPEAU AS IT PRESENTED VARYING AND DIVERGENT PROBLEMS AS APPLIED TO CANADA, NORWAY, AND OTHERS. HELLBECK SAID FRANCE WAS PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO THE CHAPEAU APPROACH OUT OF FEAR

THAT INJECTING JAPAN EVEN INDIRECTLY INTO THE US/EC
DECLARATION WOULD TEND FURTHER TO DILUTE EC IDENTITY.
WHEN HELLBECK ASKED FOR CURRENT US VIEWS ON THIS
SUBJECT, EMBOFF DREW ON
STATE 217359 (NODIS). HELLBECK SAID
HE WOULD BRING THIS US POSITION TO THE ATTENTION OF
POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL.

3. HELLBECK EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE JAPANESE
REMAIN ESSENTIALLY VERY CONFUSED OVER THE ENTIRE US/
EUROPEAN EXERCISE AND HOW BEST TO PROTECT JAPAN'S
INTEREST IN THIS NEW DIPLOMACY. HE SAID JAPAN HAD BEEN
FLABBERGASTED WHEN THE US HAD NOT
RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE SEPTEMBER JAPANESE DRAFT
PRESENTED IN WASHINGTON. JAPANESE FONOFF OFFICIALS HAD
QUERIED HIM AT SOME LENGTH LAST WEEK REGARDING THE BEST
APPROACH TO TAKE. HELLBECK OBSERVED THAT JAPANESE
EMBASSIES IN EUROPE APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO
PROVIDE THEIR AUTHORITIES IN TOKYO WITH A CLEAR VIEW
OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS. IN BONN, THE
JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS MADE ONLY ONE CALL IN THE LAST
FEW MONTHS CONCERNING THE US/EUROPEAN DECLARATION

HILLENBRAND

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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